

Call For Applications For Up to 6 Doctoral Scholarships 2023/2024

Guidelines

Within the framework of the Carnegie Mellon Portugal (CMU Portugal), the Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT) opens a call for applications for up to **six (6) Ph.D. Scholarships** (Bolsas de Investigação para Doutoramento, BD). The Ph.D. will take place in Portugal and at Carnegie Mellon University under the scope of the CMU Portugal Dual Degree Ph.D. Programs in the following fields:

- [Computer Science \(CS\)](#)¹
- [Electrical and Computer Engineering \(ECE\)](#)²
- [Engineering and Public Policy \(EPP\)](#)³
- [Human-Computer Interaction \(HCI\)](#)¹
- [Language Technologies \(LTI\)](#)¹
- [Robotics \(CS/R\)](#)⁴
- [Software Engineering \(SE\)](#)¹

Successful candidates to the CMU Portugal Dual Degree Ph.D. Programs spend up to two years at CMU and up to three years at a University in Portugal. At the end of their successful program, the candidates are awarded two Ph.D. degrees, one awarded by CMU and the other by the partner University in Portugal. Details of the Dual Degree Ph.D. programs are available in the url's above, for additional information regarding each Dual Degree Ph.D. Program see the [CMU Portugal website](#)

Applications are submitted directly through the Ph.D. program admissions website of each Department at CMU (see above) where applicants should indicate their interest in the corresponding CMU Portugal Dual Degree Ph.D. program. The FCT Scholarship will only be granted if the candidates are accepted by a Ph.D. Program at CMU and by a partner Portuguese University. Successful applicants may have to submit additional documentation to be awarded the FCT scholarship, see full details below.

¹ Computer Science (CS), Human and Computer Interaction (HCI), Language Technologies (LTI), Software Engineering (SE): <https://www.cs.cmu.edu/doctoral-admissions>

² Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE): <https://www.ece.cmu.edu/admissions/index.html>

³ Engineering and Public Policy (EPP): <https://www.cmu.edu/epp/prospective/doctoral-studies/doctoral-application/index.html>

⁴ Robotics: <https://www.ri.cmu.edu/education/academic-programs/doctoral-robotics-program/how-to-apply/>

Dual Degree Ph.D.'s available and application deadlines

The admissions period will be open from October 19th 2022 at 11:59 a.m. (EST) to December 15th 2022 at 11:59 a.m. (EST).

The call deadlines will vary depending on the Ph.D. Program:

- Computer Science (CS): October 19th, 2022 - December 12th, 2022 (11:59 a.m., EST)
- Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE): October 19th, 2022 - December 15th, 2022 (11:59 a.m., EST)
- Engineering and Public Policy (EPP): October 19th, 2022 - December 15th, 2022 (11:59 a.m., EST)
- Human and Computer Interaction (HCI): October 19th, 2022 - December 12th, 2022 (11:59 a.m., EST)
- Language Technologies (LTI): October 19th, 2022 - December 12th, 2022 (11:59 a.m., EST)
- Robotics: October 19th, 2022 - December 12th, 2022 (11:59 a.m., EST)
- Software Engineering (SE): October 19th, 2022 - December 12th, 2022 (11:59 a.m., EST)

Applications submitted before the call deadlines and until a specific date may present reduced application fees. More information is available in the CMU applications page of each Ph.D. Program.

CMU Portugal Scholarship Process Calendar

Phase	Milestone	Observations	Document Section
<u>A. Application Phase</u>	Take GRE (when mandatory) and TOEFL and prepare other application documents	Check specific due dates for each Program	<u>1. How to apply and admission requirements</u>
	Submit an online application form in the Ph.D. Program CMU website	December 2022. Check the specific date for your program	<u>2. Funding Support</u>
<u>B. Selection Phase</u>	Selection of the candidates Informing the candidates about the selection outcome	January-March 2023 April 2023	<u>3. Selection process and results announcement</u>
<u>C. Scholarship Contract and Registration</u>	Formal request for Ph.D. scholarships to FCT and publishing the selection results on the CMU Portugal Program website	May 2023	<u>4. Scholarships request to FCT and announcement of the results</u>
	Students registration at CMU and Portuguese University; Scholarship contract	July-September 2023	<u>5. Students registration and scholarship contract</u>
	CMU Portugal Scholarship Starting Date	September 2023	<u>6. Scholarship starting date and beginning of the academic year</u>

A. APPLICATION PHASE

1. Admission Requirements and How to Apply

Pursuant to article 6 in conjunction with article 9 of the Regulations for Studentships and Fellowships (RBI) of FCT, Portuguese citizens, citizens of other European Union member states, and third-country nationals holding the academic degree required to enroll in a Ph.D. Program (Licenciatura or master's degree), in accordance with the procedures adopted by Carnegie Mellon University, may apply to this call, taking into account the research areas specified by the CMU Portugal Program available in the [CMU Portugal website](#). Individuals who have previously received an FCT-funded doctoral fellowship, for the same purpose, are not eligible for this call. The Ph.D. candidate's application should satisfy the requirements established in article 10 of the Regulations for Studentships and Fellowships of FCT, in accordance with the procedures adopted by Carnegie Mellon University.

The CMU Portugal Program has a decentralized applications process for admission in which each Ph.D. program manages its own application process. **Applications are submitted directly to CMU.** To apply, follow the next steps:

- 1- Determine which dual degree Ph.D. Program you are interested;
- 2- Go the "Admissions and Scholarships" page on the CMU Portugal Program website;
- 3- Select the Ph.D. Program and you will be directed towards that Ph.D.'s applications page in the CMU website.

As a general guideline, students are required to submit the following documents in order to successfully submit an application to a Ph.D. program (*Please note that the admissions requirements will vary from department to department and the information indicated below is general*):

- Candidate's CV;
- Certificates of qualification of the academic degrees held, specifying the final classification and, if possible, the classifications obtained in all subjects taken, or, alternatively, the candidate's declaration of honor on how (s)he completed the licenciatura's or master's degree by the end the application deadline. If the candidate presents more than one Licenciatura/Bachelors or/and Master degree(s) the committee will need to choose what will be the degree(s) more aligned with the Ph.D. Program the candidate is applying to and evaluate accordingly in subcriterion A1. The other degree(s) not considered for this purpose should nevertheless be considered in the subcriterion A1 overall score as part of the candidate's academic curriculum;
- Registration of recognition of the academic degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions and registration of the final classification conversion to the Portuguese classification scale for those degrees⁵, or, alternatively, the candidate's declaration of honor on how (s)he obtained the recognition of the foreign degree equivalent to a graduate or master's degree until the end of the application period;

⁵ The recognition of foreign academic degrees and diplomas as well as the final classification conversion to the Portuguese classification scale can be request at any public higher education institution in Portugal, or at the Directorate General for Higher Education (DGES) for the automatic recognition of the degrees. More information available at: <http://www.dges.gov.pt>

- Statement of purpose;
- Letters of Recommendation (the number of letters may vary according to the CMU department);
- If required by the Ph.D. Program, the “GRE” (general exam of the Graduate Record Examination) should be submitted;
- If required by the Ph.D. Program, candidates should submit the results of the “TOEFL” (Test of English as a Foreign Language). While TOEFL is usually preferred the “IELTS” (International English Language Testing System) or the “DET” (Duolingo English Test) may be accepted.

The information provided in the online application form as well as the documents to be attached should be written in English. The certificates of qualification of the academic degrees held can be written in English or Portuguese.

The scholarship will only be granted if the candidates are accepted by CMU and by one of the Portuguese Universities Ph.D. programs eligible under the CMU Portugal Program Dual Degree Ph.D. Programs agreement. Information on the Ph.D. Programs in Portugal under this agreement is available [here](#).

GRE and TOEFL tests

Candidates should submit the results of both the “TOEFL” (Test of English as a Foreign Language) and, if required by the Ph.D. Program, the “GRE” (general exam of the Graduate Record Examination). While [TOEFL](#) is preferred the “[IELTS](#)” (International English Language Testing System) or the “DET” ([Duolingo English Test](#)) may be submitted.

Click [here](#) to register in the GRE test. Now GRE offers the possibility of making the test at home, while maintain also the option of making the test on-site. Currently in Portugal, this test can only be taken on-site in Lisbon. GRE Scores are usually valid for five years; older scores will not be considered.

An English proficiency test is required for international applicants whose native language is not English.

GRE and TOEFL tests: main policies

- [SCS GRE policy](#): If the candidate needs to take/retake the TOEFL, IELTS and/or GRE for this application it is highly recommended that the exam is taken no later than November 25th 2022. The requirement of the GRE test varies according to the SCS department: CS (optional, but highly recommended); SE (not required); LTI (optional); Robotics (optional, but strongly recommended); HCI (not required);
- **ECE GRE policy**: not required;
- **EPP GRE policy**: not required;
- [SCS English test policy](#): If you are an international applicant and your native language (language spoken from birth) is not English, an official copy of an English proficiency score report is required. The English proficiency requirement cannot be waived for any reason. We strongly encourage applicants to take either the TOEFL (iBT score of at least 100) or IELTS (score of at least 7). In cases where these

- are not available it is acceptable to take the Duolingo test (score of at least 120);
- **ECE English test policy:** All international applicants whose “native” language is not English must take an English Language proficiency exam. The scores must be received by the application deadline for the semester in which students are applying. An English Language proficiency test is not required if the applicant will have graduated from a U.S. university by the time of enrollment, or if the applicant is a CMU student or alum. The applicant can take the TOEFL (the minimum score requirement is a total of 84, with minimum sub scores of IBT-R 22, IBT-L 22, IBT-S 18, and IBT-W 22), IELTS (the minimum score requirement is an overall score of 7, with minimum sub-scores of Reading-6.5, Listening-6.5, Speaking-6, and Writing-6) or Duolingo test (the minimum score requirement is a composite score of 105, with minimum sub-scores of Literacy-105, Comprehension-115, Production-70, Conversation-95);
- **EPP English test policy:** TOEFL (iBT score of at least 102), IELTS (score of at least 7,5) or Duolingo (scores of at least 120/160) if English is not the candidate’s native language.

Research Topics

Research topics available for Ph.D. Scholarships, as well as the supervisors at both CMU and Portugal, are defined by the CMU Portugal Program. Hence, candidates do not need to present a work program or an adviser's support letter and CV at the time of application. Financial assistance is granted on the basis of the student’s potential for scholarship and creative research, and their fit with the research topics available.

2. Financial Support

2.1 CMU Portugal Doctoral Program Funding

The dual degree student’s funding is supported by FCT through the Carnegie Mellon Program and is available for a period of up to 5 years (2 years during the student’s stay at Carnegie Mellon University and 3 years at Portugal). The announcement of the call for scholarships is available in the [FCT Website](#).

Scholarships Support and Duration

The dual degree Ph.D. programs have a typical duration of 5 years, in order for the student to meet the requirements of both universities involved, thus spending up to three years in Portugal and up to two years in the United States of America. Typically, students start the coursework in a Portuguese university – currently there are six Portuguese universities involved (Aveiro, Coimbra, Lisboa, Minho, Nova de Lisboa, and Porto) – then spend a period of time at CMU, in Pittsburgh, in the United States of America, and finally return to Portugal to complete the Ph.D.

The Ph.D. students enrolled in the dual degree Ph.D. program will receive financial support in a form of a Carnegie Mellon Portugal Program Fellowship that will cover tuition fees paid directly to the institution and a monthly stipend. While staying in Portugal, the accepted candidate will receive the fellowship directly from FCT. While pursuing their studies at

Carnegie Mellon, the Ph.D. students will receive the funding through the CMU home department of the doctoral program in which they are enrolled.

Once the candidate accepts the admission offer, instructions on the steps to be followed will be provided. Awarded scholarships shall start on the beginning of the 2023/2024 academic year.

B. SELECTION PHASE

3. Evaluation process and results announcement

The application, selection, and admission of the candidates are in accordance with the procedures adopted by the corresponding Department at Carnegie Mellon University as well as the Regulations for Studentships and Fellowships (article 11). Evaluation is based on the merit and motivation of the applicant as assessed through the application.

Once the set of students that meet the minimum requirements to be considered eligible for admission in the dual degree program at CMU is found, then these candidates are ranked by the jury for scholarship's awarding and recommended for admission in the corresponding Portuguese University in the scope of the CMU Portugal Program.

The elements of the jury that will evaluate the applications will be disclosed on the CMU Portugal website shortly after the applications period and before the start of the evaluation.

The jury will assess applications in accordance with the evaluation criteria contained in this Call for Proposals, considering the elements of evaluation.

The jury will produce, for each application, a final evaluation report where it is clearly stated the reasoning for the scores given in each criterion and subcriterion.

All the jury members, including the chairs, have committed to respect a set of responsibilities essential to the evaluation process, such as the duties of impartiality, the declaration of any potential conflict of interest situations and confidentiality. At all times during the evaluation process, confidentiality is fully protected and ensured to guarantee the independence of all opinions produced.

The jury will be composed of committees for each area available in the current announcement. Each committee will have at least 3 faculty members, and from those, at least 1 should be affiliated with CMU and the remainder from Portuguese Universities affiliated with the CMU Portugal Program. The CMU Portugal Program Directors will chair the jury. The jury will be composed by a minimum of 3 effective members and 2 alternate members.

From the jury meetings, a selection report will be produced that will be the responsibility of all members. It must include the following information:

- Name and affiliation of all the jury;
- Identification of all the excluded applications and respective reasoning;

- Individual evaluation file for all candidates with the score in each criteria and subcriteria and a global qualitative evaluation;
- Provisional list of classification and ranking of candidates, in descending order of the final classification, of all the applications evaluated by the panel;
- Conflict of interest declaration from each member of the jury;
- Possible delegations of votes and powers due to justified absence.

For more information on the call's evaluation process and criteria please read the call's announcement.

C. SCHOLARSHIP AND REGISTRATION

4. Scholarships request to FCT and public announcement of the results

Once the selection report is produced, the coordination office of the CMU Portugal Program will notify all candidates regarding their scholarship awarding status. After the prior hearing of interested parties (which takes place during the 10 working days after the provisional results announcement), the coordination office of the CMU Portugal Program will notify, with the final version of the selection report, all candidates regarding their scholarship awarding status, and will send the report together with all the necessary elements to FCT for review. After FCT's approval, results are published in the CMU Portugal website, under the "[Admissions and Scholarships](#)" page.

5. Students registration and scholarship contract

As soon as the CMU Portugal scholarship is approved, both CMU Portugal Coordination Offices in Portugal and at CMU will start the process of registration of the student and also formalizing the student funding at CMU and Portugal. We strongly recommend the reading of the [call's announcement](#) for all the information concerning the documents that are needed for the FCT contract. More information about the scholarship is also available in the [student guide](#).

6. Scholarship starting date and beginning of the academic year

The CMU Portugal scholarship starting date will be September 2023 for the most cases, which coincides with the beginning of the academic year in Portugal in most Universities.

We strongly recommend the reading of the [student guide](#) for more information on the required VISA if you are planning to start the Ph.D. in the United States or residence card if you are planning to start the Ph.D. in Portugal.

Thank you for your interest in the Carnegie Mellon Portugal Program!

Please take a look around to learn more about the CMU Portugal Program. If you have any questions, please visit our [F.A.Q.](#) and [News](#) pages. Should you still have any unanswered questions, feel free to contact us via email: info@cmuportugal.org.